Oskar Schindler

Oskar Schindler, a Holocaust hero, was born on April 28, 1908 in Zwittau, Moravia, in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He was a German business man who married Emilie Schindler on March 6, 1928. Hitler began rising in power and stirring up feelings between the Sudeten Germans. Oskar Schindler joined the Pro-Nazi Sudeten German Party in 1935. He joined as a business move and to make alliances with the SS. Hitler invaded Poland in 1939 and Schindler bought a kitchenware factory to employ Jewish workers. In 1942 the Nazis sent Krakow Jews that were on his employee list to labor camps, and Schindler saved them through bribes. In 1943 a commandant, SS officer, by the name of Amon Goeth ordered the liquidation of the Krakow ghetto. Schindler bribed him to run his own labor camp in his factory and employ his own workers. In 1944 Goeth ordered Schindler’s factory to be shut down, but he once again bribed him. He moved his factory to Czechoslovakia to “keep supplying the Third Reich”, and made the famous list of the people he wanted to bring. The list contained over 1,100 names. The new factory in Brunnlitz, Czechoslovakia never produced a single shell. On May 8, 1945 Germany surrendered. Oskar and his wife Emilie fled and 1,200 workers were freed by a Russian officer. After the war Oskar started drinking, had affairs, his businesses failed, and he moved to Argentina in 1949. He abandoned his wife in 1958 and returned to Frankfurt, Germany. Schindler was declared a “Righteous Gentile” on his 54th birthday. He got to plant a tree on the Avenue of the Righteous. In 1974, Oskar Schindler, a hero never forgotten, died from liver and heart problems. He was buried in Mount Zion, Jerusalem. He saved over 6,000 Jews during the Holocaust, including their descendants.

My Thoughts

I think that Oskar Schindler is an amazing man. He risked his life every night and day to save people and go against his fellow Germans. If had not bribed and made multiple alliances with the SS and members of the German army, the 6,000 Jews would not be alive today. He is a hero to the Jewish race today and many others.